GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1784
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
COTTON FARMERS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether on account of world-wide increase in cotton production, Indian cotton farmers are facing a difficult situation with the likelihood of import of cotton; and

(b) If so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to discourage import and create more demand for domestic cotton to protect the interest of domestic cotton growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) :There is a decline in the world wide production of cotton in 2005-06 compared to 2004-05, while in India the production has gone up from 240 lakh bales in 2004-05 to 270 lakh bales in 2005-06.

(b): Industry imports mainly cotton of very high count long staple fibres such as Suvin and Pima, since these are in short supply in the country. The total import is less than 2% of total consumption. The import of Cotton has declined from 252,900 tonnes in 2003-04 to 98,240 tonnes in 2005-06.